

REMARKS

This Preliminary Amendment accompanies the filing of a Request For Continued Examination of Application Serial No. 10/632,028. With this Preliminary Amendment, independent claims 1 and 16 are amended. Claims 1-30 are presented for reconsideration and allowance.

In a Final Office Action Mailed December 5, 2005, claims 1-5, 9, 11-13, 15-20, 24, 26-28, and 30 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Lim U.S. Patent No. 5,769,671. In addition, claims 7-8, 10, 14, 22-23, 25, and 29 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) over Lim; and claims 6 and 21 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lim in view of Bradshaw et al. U.S. Patent No. 5,545,188.

With this Amendment, independent claims 1 and 16 have been amended to clarify that the first deflection portion is “insertable between free ends of the first arm and the second arm for deflecting the connector clip from a first position corresponding to a first distance between the first arm and the second arm, to a second position corresponding to a second distance between the first arm and the second arm.” As amended, claims 1 and 16 are neither taught nor suggested by Lim.

Lim does not include any deflection portion which is insertable between free ends of arms of a connector clip. In the previous Office Actions, the Examiner has considered “the first cylindrical surface 12 to be the first deflection portion because this creates the first deflection of the spring from its original relaxed condition....” The inner surface 12 of Lim is not insertable between free ends of clip 2. In fact, clip 2 merely abuts shoulder 18. No part of cylindrical surface 12 is insertable between free ends of clip 2.

In view of the amendments to claim 1 and 16, all pending claims 1-30 are now in condition for allowance. The rejections based upon Lim under § 102 and 103, and the rejection under § 103 based upon Lim in combination of Bradshaw should be withdrawn.

The provisional rejections of the claims on the basis of judicially created obviousness typed double patenting based upon Application Nos. 10/632,058 and

10/632,026 are noted. Both of those applications are still pending, and claims have not yet been allowed in either case. Therefore, response to the provisional rejections is not necessary at this time.

In conclusion, this application is now in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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